Smuggling of Computer Components

2963. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) what is the total value of computer components, peripherals and spares seized by the customs authorities in the entire country during the last one year and till date;

(b) what is the total number of persons arrested by the customs authorities in this connection during the said period; and

(c) what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken afresh by Government to prevent such smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Electronic goods worth Rs. 52.33 crores approximately and worth Rs. 58 lakhs approximately were seized by the Customs authorities during the years 1991 and 1992 (upto 9.3.1992) respectively. Figures in respect of computer components, computer peripherals and spares are not maintained separately.

(b) The number of persons arrested by the Customs authorities in the calender years 1991 and 1992 (upto 9.3.92) are given in the table below:

Year	No. of persons arrested
1991	2381*
1992 (upto 9.3.92)	304*

*Figures are provisional.

The figures in respect of electronic goods, computer components spares, etc. are not maintained separately.

(c) The Customs authorities are vigilant against smuggling including that of computer components, computer peripherals and spare. Intelligence is targetted against such smuggling. Sophisticated equipment such as X-ray baggage machines are being increasingly used.

Illegal Production of Opium in the country

2964. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) what is the total production of opium in the country during the last 3 years;

(b) whether Government have any estimate of the quantum of illegal production of opium in the country;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that conversion of opium to Heroin, is a flourishing racket in the Uttar Pradesh Village Malsa as per the news- report appearing in the Times of India, of the 25rd December, 1991 entitled "Drug Menace India a Manufacturer Too" and

(e) if so, what steps Government have taken/propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Production of opium in the country during the last three crop years is as given below:

Crop Year	Opium produced at 70C (in metric tonnes)
1988-89	630.752
1989-90	561.967
1990-91	487.045(Provisional)

(b) and (c) There is no estimate available on the extent of illegal production of opium in the country. Whenever any illegal cultivation was noticed, the same were destroyed immediately.

(d) and (e) Certain stray cases of detection and dismantling of make-shift laboratories have taken place in Gazipur district of U.P. However, as per available information, there is no indication of conversion of opium to heroin as a flourishing racket in village mals (U.P.) Efforts to enforce the law continue unabated.